

Application No. 10/623,733
Reply to Office Action of May 2, 2006

Docket No.: 00155-00388-US

Amendments to and Listing of the Claims:

Please cancel claims 18-25 without prejudice to the filing of one or more divisional applications directed to the subject matter thereof. Please amend claims 6, 9, 27-30 and 37, without prejudice, as shown below in the following listing of all claims ever presented. The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of the claims.

1. (Original) A coating composition comprising an aqueous mixture comprising acid-stable particles and one or more fluoroacids, wherein the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from 0.005% to 8% by weight on a dry weight basis.
2. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the acid-stable particles are aluminum-modified silica particles, and the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from 0.005% to 5% by weight on a dry weight basis.
3. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the acid-stable particles are nonaluminum-modified silica particles, and the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from 0.005% to 5% by weight on a dry weight basis.
4. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the acid-stable particles are polymeric organic particles.
5. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the mixture further comprises a product of the acid-stable particles and the one or more fluoroacids.
6. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 2 wherein the aluminum-modified silica particles comprise about 0.006% to about 1% by weight on a dry weight basis of the composition.

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7. (Original) The coating composition of claim 2 wherein the aluminum-modified silica particles have a $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ weight ratio from 80:1 to 240:1.

8. (Original) The coating composition of claim 2 wherein the aluminum-modified silica particles have a $\text{SiO}_2:\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ weight ratio from 120:1 to 220:1.

9. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 3 wherein the nonaluminum-modified silica particles comprise about 0.006% to about 1% by weight on a dry weight basis of the composition.

10. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the acid-stable particles maintain a change in viscosity of ten seconds or less.

11. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a pH from 3 to 6.

12. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the composition has a pH from 3.5 to 5.

13. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the acid-stable particles maintain a change in viscosity of three seconds or less.

14. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from 0.006% to 2% by weight on a dry weight basis.

15. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from 0.007% to 0.5% by weight on a dry weight basis.

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16. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the concentration of the one or more fluoroacids in the coating compositions is from about 5 ppm to about 1000 ppm.

17. (Original) The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the acid-stable particles maintain a change in viscosity of one second or less.

18-25. (Canceled)

26. (Original) A coating composition prepared by a process comprising: providing acid-stable particles and one or more fluoroacids; and mixing the acid-stable particles and the one or more fluoroacids in water, wherein the coating composition has a pH from 2 to 7, and the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from 0.005 to 8% by weight on a dry weight basis.

27. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 26 wherein the acid-stable particles are selected from one or more of the group consisting of aluminum-modified silica particles, nonaluminum-modified silica particles, and organic polymeric particles.

28. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 27 wherein the aluminum-modified silica particles comprise about 0.006 to about 1% by weight on a dry weight basis of the composition.

29. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 27 wherein the nonaluminum-modified acid stable silica particles comprise about 0.006% to about 1% by weight on a dry weight basis of the composition.

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30. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 27 wherein the organic polymeric particles comprise about 0.01% to about 5% on a dry weight basis by weight of the composition.

31. (Original) The coating composition of claim 26 wherein the composition has a pH from 3 to 6.

32. (Original) The coating composition of claim 26 wherein the composition has a pH from 3.5 to 5.

33. (Original) The coating composition of claim 26 wherein the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from about 0.006% to about 2% by weight on a dry weight basis.

34. (Original) The coating composition of claim 26 wherein the amount of the one or more fluoroacids in the coating compositions is from about 5 ppm to about 1000 ppm.

35. (Original) The coating composition of claim 26 wherein the acid-stable particles maintain a change in viscosity of three seconds or less.

36. (Original) A coating composition consisting essentially of 0.006% to 2% by weight, on a dry weight basis, of acid-stable particles and one or more fluoroacids having a pH from about 3 to 6, wherein the coating composition in a cured state provides a coating coverage on a metal substrate from 8 mg/sq ft to 30 mg/sq ft.

37. (Currently amended) The coating composition of claim 36 wherein the acid-stable particles are selected from the group consisting of aluminum-modified silica particles, nonaluminum-modified acid stable silica particles, and organic polymeric particles.

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38. (Original) The coating composition of claim 36 wherein the amount of the acid-stable particles in the coating composition is from about 0.007% to about 0.5% by weight on a dry weight basis.

39. (Original) The coating composition of claim 36 wherein the amount of the one or more fluoroacids in the coating compositions is from about 5 ppm to about 1000 ppm.

40. (Original) The coating composition of claim 36 wherein the acid-stable particles maintain a change in viscosity of three seconds or less.